Gains from five days a week in Government Offices

1550. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what have been the gains from the introduction of five days a week so far in Government offices;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that absenteism among the staff and officers of all categories at 9 a.m. is more than 90 per cent; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to enforce punctuality in offices if this scheme is to be continued?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) The 5-days week system was introduced in the context of improving efficiency in administration. However, two quick studies have revealed certain incidental benefits of this system as listed below:

(i) operational efficiency of public transport system has improved;

(ii) favourable response from employees;

(iii) saving in overall fuel and a power consumption.

(b) The studies mentioned above *inter-alia* revealed that punctuality in attendance has not suffered, by and large, in the five days a week system.

(c) Appropriate instructions already exist to ensure punctuality and regular attendance in offices.

Inclussion of NRTC projects in the 8th Five Year Plan

1551. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission has received proposal for the construction of the Ghazipur - Balia - Chapra-Hajipur-Mohama-Farakka; Patna-Muzaffarpur Sonbarsa-Bhitamorh and the Parhat-Katihar-Harishchandrapur projects from the National Road Transport Development Council for including in Eighth Five Year Plan; if so the details thereof;

(b) how long it would take to approve and include them in the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(c) whether the said projects would be implemented in the Eigth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise

Re-thinking on the use of Atomic Energy

1552. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the re-thinking being done in the developed countries on the use of nuclear energy;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether it is cost-effective in our country, as compared to the investment made so far in the generation of atomic energy?

THE Minister of STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) to (c) Government is aware that in certain countries there has been a slowing down of nuclear power programme for various reasons, including that of low requirement for additional power and pressures related to environmental and safety considerations. In certain countries like France, nuclear power contributes almost 80 per cent of the electricity generation. More stations are being added there in order to export electricity. Govt. has a responsibility to meet energy needs of the country for

various categories of the population and for various sectors of economic development. Govt. is of the view that nuclear energy can play an important role in this regard. While pursuing this objective Govt. will also see to it that all that is necessary is done to ensure safety and avoidance of hazards that have been cause of public concern.

Nuclear power has been cost effective in this country, in fact, the commercial rate of selling nuclear electricity various from about 46 p|KWh to 59 p|KWh. These are calculated on the basis of investments made and their normal rate of return.

Violation of German Laws in HDW Submarine deal

1553. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 15th June, 1990 that the Chairman of the German Parliamentary Submarine Inquiry Committee, Mr. Friendrich Bohl had said that no indication was there regarding violation of German Laws in regard to HDW Submarine deal with India;

(b) whether it was also mentioned that if there was any indication of the commission having been paid to the agents, it was up to the public prosecutor to investigate into it; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE RAJA RAMANNA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Efforts are being made through diplomatic channels to obtain a copy of the judgement delivered by the High Court in Kiel, which has been classified "Secret" by them. As regards the allegations of payment of commission by M|s HDW in respect of the Indian Navy's SSK Submarine contract, the matter is presently under investigation by the C.B.I. who have registered a Regular Case No. RC 1 (A)|90-ACu(I)| New Delhi on 5 March, 1990.

Sanction to Kaushabati Project in West Bengal

1554. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Environment and Forests has given sanction to Kaushabati project in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Kaushabati project has not yet been referred to the Ministry for consideration.

Poverty line in India

1555. SHRI S.K.T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of population below poverty line in India during the year 1985-86 to 1989-90;

(b) what is the line of demarcation of poverty in terms of per capita income;

(c) what is the trend of growth or decline of poverty in India from 1985 to 1990;

(d) what steps are taken to eradicate poverty;

(e) whether Government propose to introduce schemes to provide employment to all unemployed and under-employed; if so, what steps have been taken by Government so far; and

(f) what is the *per capita* income in rural areas at present and what is the *per capita* income in Urban areas in India?